

METROPOLITAN CORRESPONDENCE

NEW SERIES—LITERARY VII.

KNOXVILLE, July 14, 1856.

To the Editor of the Post:

Since I wrote you last there has been some stir in the literary world of Knoxville. You have, doubtless, noticed the accounts in our papers of the Commencement exercises of East Tennessee University. It was gratifying to observe the manifestations of an increased interest in the prosperity of this institution on the part of our citizens. Too long has it been suffered to languish, in spite of the exertions of its officers and to the shame of the citizens whose duty and whose interest alike it is to encourage and sustain it. I am compelled to say that this deplorable state of affairs is due in a great measure to their indifference, not to say hostility! Under the influence of the new feeling which seems to have sprung up amongst us, and with the able superintendence and fostering care of its present worthy and efficient President, I am led to hope that this noble institution—noble and glorious in the times of a Carrick, a Coffin, a Sherman, and no less prosperous and useful in the later days of an ESTABROOK, whose comparatively recent death has claimed a sympathetic tear, here and there, in nearly every Southern State—will speedily, phoenix-like, rise from its ashes and resume its place in the front rank of South-western halls of learning. President Cooks, besides being every way qualified for his responsible position, is, I am happy to know, a gentleman in his social relations. In learning, he is profound without pedantry; in religion, he is pious without bigotry; and although he is doubtless firm and decided in his doctrinal opinions, his good sense and consideration for the feelings of others are sufficient to protect those who enjoy the pleasure of daily association with him from the constant obtrusion of controversial subjects. In short, he is a man eminently calculated for the post he fills, and if we are disappointed in the revival and ultimate success of the University, the fault will not be at his door.

The discourse delivered by JOSEPH B. HARRIS, Esq., of Rogersville, before the associated Alumni was listened to by a crowded audience, and with a degree of interest that I have not often seen equalled on an occasion of the kind. Mr. H. attributed the sickly condition of the institution during the past few years chiefly to the blighting influence of sectarianism. His remarks on this subject were quite felicitous, and were received with evident satisfaction. Yet, strange as it may appear, I observed that much of the applause which greeted the speaker during this portion of his address, proceeded from some of the most violent, uncompromising sectarians we have in our midst! There they sat, complacently smiling and clapping their hands, and no doubt saying to themselves, "that's it—give it to 'em; the devil of it—such and such a Church! Oh, dents if we were not so heckened, I should quote, right here, Burns' celebrated exclamation, in which he invokes the aid of some invisible power to endow him with the capacity to view his 'fair proportions' in the same light in which they are held by his neighbors! Notwithstanding Mr. Harris' just severity and plain language, in denouncing this mischievous and unchristian spirit, I can scarcely hope that any permanent improvement amongst Knoxville 'christians' will be the result. The demon may be 'laid' for a season, but let any, even the slightest occasion arise and the fire will burst forth again, and with ten-fold fury from its temporary suspension. The withholding effects of this fell spirit have already told upon the prosperity and progress of this city. It has contributed, in no small degree to retard its growth, when other circumstances seemed to be conspiring to promote and foster its interests. Let any one call to mind, for a moment, our most prominent men for some years past—those who have been most active and efficient in any scheme for building up the town. Have any of them escaped the arrows of sectarian prejudice? Does a Railroad President, or Agent, happen to affiliate with the 'New School' or the 'Old Blues,' instantaneously, and, as it were, at the tap of the drum, are arrayed against him the entire forces of the opposite wing of the Church! not to mention the countless sharpshooters that annoy and harass him from the fastnesses of the various other sects! Pray, why is this? Has a man's religious belief anything to do with the performance of his civil duties? If it were not so much to be lamented this thing, in its operation, would be somewhat amusing. As for example—An enterprising, public-spirited citizen is chosen to manage the affairs of a Railroad; he belongs, say, to the 'New Blues.' Now you will see little groups of 'Old Blues' whispering maliciously, and sagely shaking their heads: "Look sharp, now—cunning fellow, that—make in the grass—after something to circumvent us, 'Old Stoking.' " There is a fellow who is always chattering, wiring about, and we don't know what for—the best way is to oppose everything that he says ought to be done. The weight of some of our names, when simply mentioned, will crush out his scheme! Meanwhile, we will be very quiet, smooth and oily—we'll wheedle the public, cajole and flatter them, and we will be the honest men—this shrewd, cunning, reckless fellow, the rogue! It may be that some of our patriotic citizens takes it into his head to go and legislate for us—perhaps to Congress. Some think him well adapted for the business—useful man—would make a good Representative. Fortunately, he belongs to no church—he's a sinner! Oh! but, say one of the congregations, of which, as the individuals happens to be a "man of money," is only sorry they didn't get him: "Ah, but his wife is a member of the—concern, down yonder—Attends there regularly with her, and what is more, they go in their carriage!" and straightway this individual is done for with that sect! You see, the carriage is the worst thing about it. He goes to church in style, thereby magnifying the importance of his church, and proportionally diminishing that of ours! It is not to be borne! and you know we can use the carriage argument in the election! Besides this, we shall have plenty of allies, with the argument that here is a very dark, managing man. He is evidently plotting something very deep—something that none of us can fathom, &c. Let every one beware of him!

These things are very humiliating to a citizen who indulges the least pride in the present position and prospective growth and importance of Knoxville. But the picture, though roughly sketched, and by an unskilled

hand, is a true one. The artist has no fears that it will not be recognized. Let us hope that every one who looks upon it will not forthwith begin to count up some of his acquaintances whom it is very like, "I will conclude this disagreeable subject by recommending to each and every one of these much abused individuals, who must needs pay the penalty of their prominence, to content himself, when some new iniquity is imputed to him, with Shakespeare's philosophy:

"I will be hanged if some eternal villain, Some happy and insouciant rogue, Some meddling meddling slave, Shall put me off at some ill-fated office, Have not devils' this slander?"

I know you will be disappointed if I close this letter without jotting down some of the *adits* in political circles heretofore. And yet there is not much to be told. The dust and hillbilly kicked up amongst us not long since by the headlong leaps and plunges of sundry erratic politicians, facetiously termed "Old Line Whigs," seems to have blown away without any material damage to any one, so far as I know. These gentlemen, like Brutus and his coadjutors, are

"all honorable men" nor would I presume to question their right to vindicate their ancient Whiggery by going over, body and ears, to their ancient enemies, any more than I would attempt to throw an obstacle in the way of other "Whigs," who intend to assert their claims to the title by supporting Fillmore and Donelson. "It is a free country—it is a great country." All parties can, at least, join in the patriotic sentiment which is ever the burden of Fourth of July orations, viz: "Hooray for America!"

I speak in all seriousness and candor when I say, that whatever may be the doubts and difficulties of many old Whigs in the present curious state of parties, no man worthy of the name of Whig can read Mr. Fillmore's recent speech in New York without feeling his conservative, Union loving blood stirred within him! It is truly refreshing in these "bipartisan" times of political corruption and profligacy to know that though Clay is no more, there yet lives a man among us who dares stand up boldly and without fear, for his country, his whole country and nothing but his country—that there is yet a man in the nation who would "rather be right than President!" Are not the sentiments embodied in the speeches alluded to *platform enough* for our day? Yes, indeed, Mr. Fillmore's speech is *himself* a platform—stands, a great Union Colossus—and his broad shoulders, extending from the pine forests of Maine to the golden sands of California's coast, meanders are ample and strong enough to support all who wish to take their stand upon them—ALL who love their country and would save it from the political jackals who are even now gnawing and howling about the Capital, impatient for the hour which they confidently look for, when, torn, bleeding, exhausted, impotent, their prey is at their mercy.

Although I say all this, and, indeed, am ready to go farther and say that Mr. Fillmore is the very best man we have for the crisis, I am still not so blind with prejudice as to set aside the claims of Mr. Buchanan. My editorial pen is not affected by what the newspapers tell us. I quote the language of Mr. CURRIE, our late member of Congress, when I say, in reference to newspapers, "they lie on both sides." Mr. B. is a safe man. I know of no man whom I would prefer to President, except Mr. Fillmore. And believing as I do that the struggle is now wholly and almost entirely between the North and the South—in other words, between *Disunion* and *Union*—I must indulge the hope that a combination of the scattered elements of conservatism may yet be effected, and that thereby the Union, which we are wont to call THE UNION may be preserved.

This letter has been spun out far greater length than I intended, and I feel like attempting an apology for the infliction of such an unbecomingly long and tedious letter upon you, but as your readers, and believing as I do that the struggle is now wholly and almost entirely between the North and the South—in other words, between *Disunion* and *Union*—I must indulge the hope that a combination of the scattered elements of conservatism may yet be effected, and that thereby the Union, which we are wont to call THE UNION may be preserved.

[NOTE.—We presume Mr. Churchwell formed his estimate of the truthfulness of the press, from reading the papers of his own political faith.—Ed. Post.]

POLITICAL POSITION OF THE GERMAN PRESS.—The Cincinnati Volksblatt gives a list of all the German papers published in the United States—showing which are for Buchanan and which for Fremont. From this list and classification there appear to be 16 dailies and 41 weeklies for Buchanan, and 18 dailies and 38 weeklies for Fremont. The Cincinnati Gazette of the 7th inst., says Mr. Samuel Ludvig, editor of a German Quarterly Review, at Baltimore, Md., and one of the most eloquent German speakers in the United States, is stopping at the Gibson. He is travelling in the West, and will speak at Richmond, Ind., Indianapolis, and other portions, in favor of Fremont and Dayton.

We heard that Sam Smith, the inveterate wag who represents the third congressional district, and who recently "threw up" his lease for the fun of seeing his country cousins scramble for it, made a speech "the other day" in Baltimore, in which he presented "Old Buck," to his auditory, in the garb of military chief—of some sort! Is it a part of the programme to exhibit the "old felt" to the people in regiments, with a sword epaulette, black cockade and spurs?

CAVING IN.—The letter of Mr. Buchanan, accepting the nomination, but avowing the squatter sovereignty doctrine, is very annoying to the democracy. More than one has declared emphatically in our hearing that they will not support him. The fact is, what the people of this State are exhibiting at the little artificial enthusiasm was exhibited at the first announcement of his nomination, and passed away. On the other hand Fillmore's national and magnificent letter and reception speeches, have given new zeal and courage to his friends and admirers everywhere.

A very quiet, but intelligent and influential gentleman, who says but little about politics, and who voted against us in the last election, surprised us the other day by warmly assuring us that Fillmore was the man for the times, and that the people would no decide. So note it be.—*Jour and Mess.*

The Boston Journal says fifty families from Virginia, of the denomination called "United Brethren," all in favor of Fremont, have, through their ministers, selected a settlement six miles south of Lawrence, on the Santa Fe road, in Kansas, and are now preparing to emigrate.

A mass State Convention of the people of Vermont, held on the 22d inst., nominated Ryland Fletcher for Governor, Jas. Slade for Lieutenant Governor, and Henry M. Bates for Treasurer, and endorsed the nomination of Fremont and Dayton.

The London Times warns the British Government to have Central American affairs settled up before Mr. Buchanan shall come to the Presidency.

RATIFICATION MEETING AT MADISONVILLE.

For the Post.

Mr. Editor: As this is a day of politics, I hope that your readers will bear with me while I give you a short sketch of a Ratification meeting, held by the Buchanan democracy of Monroe county, Tenn., on Monday the 7th inst. After the customary prayer, the meeting commenced by the State of Leon and Chihuahua against Tamulais.

New York, July 10.—At the republican ratification meeting held here yesterday, a letter was read from James Macon, formerly the democratic member of Congress from the first district, fully sympathizing with the object of the meeting.

New wheat is selling at Hestersburg, Va., at \$1.50 per bushel.

List of Appointments.
District appointments of D. M. Key and R. B. Hanson, District Directors for the 84 Congressional District.

On the morning of the 10th inst., by Jackson, Tenn. Mr. ALEXANDER SENIOR to Miss SARAH McBRIDE, all of Bradley county.

On the morning of the 10th inst., by Rev. T. M. Munsey, Mr. SAMUEL W. DICKSON, to Miss SARAH ELIZABETH DICKSON, formerly of Greeneville, Tenn.

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ALABAMA LOTTERY!

[Authorized by the State of Alabama.]

SOUTHERN

Military Academy Lottery!

CLASS B—NEW SERIES.

To be drawn in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, on Thursday, August 13, 1856, on the

Havana Plan!

SAMUEL SWAN, Manager.

Prizes amounting to \$204,000!

Will be distributed according to the following

Magnificent Scheme!

30,000 Numbers—15,155 Prizes!

1 Prize of \$10,000, 10,000 Numbers.

10 Prizes of \$1,000, 10,000 Numbers.

100 Prizes of \$100, 10,000 Numbers.

1,000 Prizes of \$10, 10,000 Numbers.

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